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ACCUSED OF BEING A SEX WORKER
CONDOMS IN TRAVELLER'S BAGGAGE RUBBED U.S. CUSTOMS THE WRONG WAY, A MONTREAL WOMAN CLAIMS
PAGE 3

Past to be exposed at mom's attempted murder hearing

Date is set. Lawyer also says family is concerned for both the suspect and her children

MORGAN MODJESKI
morgan.modjeski@metronews.ca

The case about a Saskatoon woman charged with trying to kill her son has a past, her lawyer suggested on Tuesday.

Richard Elson, a defence attorney for the 32-year-old mother charged with attempted murder and aggravated assault, told Provincial Court Judge Dolores Ebert that there is "significant history" to the case.

"There have been civil proceedings that predate the events in question, and I suspect those civil proceedings and certain issues are going to be the subject of the bail supervision report and will be considered by the court in due course," he told reporters outside the courthouse in Saskatoon.

Elson made the comments as a show-cause hearing for the suspect was slated for next week.

The arrest of the woman, a mother of two boys aged 10 and six, came after a custody incident brought members of the Saskatoon Police Service to a residence in the 400-block of 9th Street East.

The boys were in the house when officers arrived and tried to make contact with the children's mother. The 10-year-old opened the door and told officers he needed help.

Once police entered the home, they found the six-year-old had stab wounds to his neck and abdomen while the woman had cuts on her wrists and stab wounds to her abdomen as well.

Elson also noted the woman's family has been impacted by the incident.

"Certainly, the family is worried," he said.

Difficult time for family

"Certainly, the family is worried, not just about my client but about the two children."

Richard Elson, the defence attorney for a 32-year-old mother charged with attempted murder and aggravated assault against her child

The six-year-old has been released from hospital. His mother will be remanded until she's back in court on April 8 for the show-cause hearing.

Police say their investigation is continuing.

Defence attorney Richard Elson, who represents the woman accused of stabbing and attempting to kill her six-year-old son, speaks with reporters outside of Provincial Court in downtown Saskatoon on Tuesday. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

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NEWS 1

Sask.'s North Portal border crossing getting expanded

Set to finish in 2015. Upgrade to allow better flow of commercial traffic

ALYSSA MCDONALD
Metro in Regina

A heavily used Saskatchewan border crossing to the U.S. is getting federal funding for an expansion to its commercial access.

The North Portal crossing between the province and North Dakota will modernize its commercial side, adding space for on-site checks and widening a lane to allow more traffic to flow.

Tom Lukiwski, MP for Regina–Lumsden–Lake Centre, said the improvements will help move trucks faster, increasing the amount they can haul and decreasing emissions by waiting vehicles.

"It's all about getting the flow of goods and services across the border quicker and as secure as we've had it before.… There is just simply more traffic coming across the border today than there were years past," said Lukiwski, also referring to the Global Transportation Hub (GTH).

The border crossing saw $12 billion in trade in 2012 and the trade continues to grow with the province's economy.

"We expect the GTH will be a major source of economic stimulus for the entire province and particularly Regina of course, but also for the entire region of Western Canada," said Lukiwski, adding that North Portal is the ninth-largest crossing in Canada.

While the modernization is specifically on the commercial side, Lukiwski said the public crossing will also see some benefits.

"Any time we can get the trucks through quicker, public traffic will see a significant improvement as well."

The project is still in its early phases, but is set to finish in 2015.

A transport truck is seen in this Flickr image. MP Tom Lukiwski on Tuesday announced $10 million in funding to improve the North Portal border crossing to the U.S. SADLERO/FLICKR

City's newest councillors dealing with age-old problem

A car tire can be seen in a pothole in downtown Saskatoon on Tuesday afternoon. City councillors have been faced with a number of issues associated with the spring melt, including potholes. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

Saskatoon's newest city councillors are getting a chance to face some of the city's oldest issues as the spring melt presents challenges.

Eric Olauson, councillor for Ward 8, said although he hasn't gotten a high number of phone calls or emails, the majority of those he does get are about problems caused by the thaw.

"I would say probably right now, 75 per cent of them are worried about the potholes — not so much just the potholes — but the state of the melt and their roads," said Olauson.

"Have I been receiving a lot? No, not a lot in my world, but it is concerning that we're having these issues."

Troy Davies, first-term councillor for Ward 4, said he has been busy responding to such concerns.

"It was pretty much full-time all of Easter weekend for me," said Davies, who received 25 emails and 17 calls over the long weekend, all of which were about street conditions.

"I knew it was going to get a little bit crazy on the weekend, and rightfully so. We have to work better for next year to make sure we don't go through this again," he said.

Coun. Zach Jeffries in Ward 10 said he hasn't received many complaints about the spring melt, but he added that it's been the most pressing issue for his constituents thus far.

"At this point, I'm probably receiving — since things really started melting — 10 communications per day from residents," said Jeffries. "There's definitely some frustrations out there, you can't deny that."

All three said they'll work with the city's administration to try to ensure that issues associated with the spring melt are dealt with before next year. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

Spring runoff

Province ready to assist residents at risk of flooding

The Saskatchewan government is standing by to assist residents threatened by flooding.

Ken Cheveldayoff, the minister responsible for the Saskatchewan Water Security Agency, says the province will continue with a flood-damage reduction program.

The program provides engineering and technical assistance to municipalities, and shares the cost of permanent and temporary flood prevention work.

Such work can include berms, culverts and lift stations.

Cheveldayoff says the government has provided $25 million since 2011 for flood prevention in communities across the province.

The Water Security Agency is calling for above normal or well-above normal spring runoff in almost all of the southern half of the province. THE CANADIAN PRESS

SaskEnergy

Residents poised to pay more for natural gas

Saskatchewan residents could soon pay more for natural gas.

SaskEnergy is applying to the Saskatchewan Rate Review Panel for an increase in the delivery service rate for natural gas, the corporation announced Tuesday.

A typical home customer would pay about $1.46 more per month in the first year of the hike, beginning Sept. 1, and 87 cents more starting a year later. However, actual bills would vary depending on usage.

Those bill increases amount to 2.1 per cent in the first year and 1.2 per cent in the second year. METRO

University Heights

Tire slashing probed

Saskatoon police are investigating a number of vehicles that were damaged last week.

Police say that between the hours of 10 p.m. on March 27 and 6:30 a.m. March 28, roughly five vehicles had their tires slashed.

All of the incidents occurred in the 300 and 400 blocks of Scissons Crescent in the city's University Heights neighbourhood. METRO

Robocalls. Tory worker charged in election fraud

A junior Conservative campaign worker in Guelph, Ont., has been charged under the Elections Act for fraudulent robocalls made during the 2011 election campaign.

The charge was confirmed by the lawyer for Michael Sona, a young employee on the campaign of candidate Marty Burke.

Elections Canada has been investigating hundreds of fraudulent calls in Guelph and dozens of other ridings that purported to be from the elections regulator.

Voters were told their polling stations had been moved, part of an alleged scam to suppress non-Conservative voters.

Sona, now 24, asserts that he is being made a scapegoat by the party brass. His lawyer, Norm Boxall, echoed that allegation in a statement Tuesday.

"If the government was interested in the public being fully informed ... a full public inquiry would be called, rather than a charge laid against a single individual who ... clearly lacked the resources and access to the data required."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Neither Elections Canada nor the public prosecutors' office would comment on the nature of the charge. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Kamloops, B.C.

Alleged jail-sex voyeurs at hearing

A preliminary hearing is underway in a Kamloops, B.C., court for three RCMP officers and a jail guard who are accused of watching two women having sex in a cell.

Cpl. Kenneth Brown and constables Evan Elgee and Stephen Zaharia are each charged with one count of breach of trust by a public officer in connection with the August 2010 incident. Guard David Tompkins faces a similar allegation.

The Crown alleges the four did not act when surveillance cameras showed two drunken women having sex.

Instead of intervening, the men are accused of calling their colleagues to watch, even though the women were likely too drunk to be able to consent to sex, and one had already told officers she had HIV. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Student says she was accused of sex work

U.S. border. Customs flagged her for carrying condoms and lingerie, UBC student alleges

KATE WEBB
Metro in Vancouver

A UBC student who tried to go through U.S. customs three times last month while carrying condoms and sexy lingerie says she was interrogated for hours, accused of being a sex worker and warned she could be banned from the U.S. for five years.

Creative-writing student Clay Nikiforuk, 24, has asked that her real name be withheld. She said she was told she now needs a visa proving she has no intent to settle in the U.S. to cross the border.

Her ordeal started in early March. Alone, she boarded a bus to Boston from Montreal, where she lives and is enrolled in distance education.

At the border crossing in Vermont, she said officers questioned her about eight or so condoms in her suitcase and about her undergarments.

"I was like, 'Yeah, some girls like shoes, I like nice underwear,' and then realized it was really not funny," she said. "They were taking it very seriously ... and looking at my condoms and counting them."

Nikiforuk was eventually let through but didn't learn until later she had been flagged as a suspected prostitute.

On March 24, she was back in Montreal heading through U.S. customs on a flight to Aruba via Miami accompanied by a married man.

Clay Nikiforuk, who asked that her real name be withheld, says she was interrogated by U.S. border agents for eight hours last week and denied a flight on suspicion of being a sex worker. CONTRIBUTED

Nikiforuk said the man's wife knows about their affair.

She said as soon as she gave her passport to U.S. border control she was asked, "How much is he paying you to go on this trip?"

When she said he was not, she was berated for participating in adultery but let go.

When it was time to travel home from Aruba on March 27, she says U.S. customs interrogated her for eight hours. When asked what, if not sex work, she does for a living, she said she is writing a book about sexual assault.

"He asked, 'Are you looking to be sexually assaulted?'" she said. She alleges that after hours of interrogation, she was denied entry to the U.S., although her partner was not questioned. They spent $900 each on plane tickets to Canada via Panama, plus paid for two extra nights in a hotel.

She admits she has been paid for some freelance modelling work in the U.S. but insists she was questioned in all three instances in March primarily on suspicion of being a sex worker.

U.S. Customs and Border Patrol spokesman Mike Milne said he cannot comment due to privacy laws, but that in general anyone coming into the U.S. frequently is assumed to be an intended immigrant.

Legal checkup

Suspicion is enough

Miami-based immigration lawyer Steve Goldstein said he's never heard of someone being barred from entering the U.S. solely because they were carrying condoms.

And he said he suspects there were likely other factors at play when Clay Nikiforuk (not her real name) was denied entry to the U.S. after travelling to Aruba, such as her website stating she poses for nude modelling photo shoots and the fact she was travelling with a married man.

U.S. Customs and Border Patrol spokesman Mike Milne said suspicion of prostitution is enough to deny someone admission to the country under U.S. immigration law.

"If they have suspicion of something, and it's something that falls under the Immigration Act as a ground of inadmissibility, they pretty much are judge and jury," Goldstein said. "They make the decision: you're in or you're out."

Nikiforuk still contends she is the victim of a sexist double standard, because a man would never be investigated to begin with simply for carrying condoms and nice underwear.

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Telemarketing. CRTC fines firms for robocalls

Canada's telecommunications regulator has fined two companies over their telemarketing practices. The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission says Ontario Consumer Credit Assistance and Quick Connect Solutions both failed to get the consent of people they robocalled to promote their services.

The regulator's rules bar firms from using auto-diallers without the permission of the people being called. The CRTC fined Ontario Consumer Credit Assistance $69,000 and Quick Connect Solutions $11,000.

"We appreciate that Ontario Consumer Credit Assistance and Quick Connect Solutions fully co-operated with our investigation and committed to changing their telemarketing practices," CRTC chief compliance officer Andrea Rosen said in a statement. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Who's exempt

- The CRTC's rules for robocalls do not apply to police and fire departments, schools and hospitals that are communicating a public-service message.
- Nor are registered political parties, nomination and leadership contestants or candidates barred from making robocalls.

Market Minute

DOLLAR 98.53¢ (+0.17¢)

TSX 12,682.10 (-13.04)

OIL $97.19 US (+12¢)

GOLD $1,575.90 US (-$25)

Natural gas: $3.96 US (-6¢)
Dow Jones: 14,662.01 (+89.16)

Are airline's fat fares fair?

Pay-as-you-weigh airfares are unlikely to come to Canada because of human rights legislation and other legal issues. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Pay-as-you-weigh.
Samoa Air will charge passengers for baggage — and personal bulk

Samoa Air has become the first airline in the world to charge passengers by weight.

Instead of a flat rate per seat, the airline will charge passengers a fixed price per kilogram, with the price varying depending on the route.

The pay-as-you-weigh system was announced on the airline's website. "We at Samoa Air are keeping airfares fair, by charging our passengers only for what they weigh. You are the master of your Air 'fair,' you decide how much (or little) your ticket will cost.

"No more exorbitant excess baggage fees, or being charged for baggage you may not carry. Your weight plus your baggage items, is what you pay for. Simple."

The airline posted the news on its Facebook page, getting mixed reaction. Some liked the idea, while Gus Crichton was among those who rejected such a plan. "What? I have to give up my body building career so I can get a cheaper fare? Fat chance," he wrote.

Another dissenter, Guvanch Meredov, called it "immoral and discriminating." Another suggested this policy is like asking people with bigger feet to pay extra for bigger shoes.

The airline's chief executive Chris Langton told ABC radio he believes it is the most equitable system for charging passengers. "This is the fairest way of travelling," he said. "The people who have been most pleasantly surprised are families because we don't charge on the seat requirement even though a child is required to have a seat. We just weigh them." Langton said a family with two adults and two mid-sized children will now be able to travel at less cost than before. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Passenger poundage

"Anyone who travels at times has felt they have been paying for half of the passenger next to them."
Chris Langton, CEO of Samoa Air

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IT'S ALL COMING UP WIKI

JUST SAYIN'

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

There's a game I like to play with myself.

No, not that game.

It's a game called "If I time-travelled to today from the year I was born, what about the future would most blow my mind?"

Never mind when I was born. You just need to know it was long ago and far away.

There are lots of candidates: the microwave oven, the smartphone, the car that parks itself, drones, ebooks, the International Space Station, will.i.am, The Bachelorette.

But how about Wikipedia?

All the knowledge of the world at your fingertips. Over 22 million articles in 285 languages, 4.2 million in English alone.

Wikipedia has only been around since 2001, and already it's solved the stupid dinner-party argument. Now, instead of a long, boring argument, there's a moment of silence as everyone (let's be honest, just the guys) finds the answer on Wikipedia.

While it takes all the fun out of being a know-it-all — now anyone can be a know-it-all — it cuts down on relationship wear and tear.

"I can't believe you allowed that fathead Charles to bait you like that. Just let it go. Who cares what the national bird of Argentina is?"

"I care. It's the Rufous Hornero."

That was then. Now, in the future, the Rufous Hornero and other contentious beasts are at your fingertips, in a Wikipedia article called National Animals.

They don't call it wiki ("quick" in Hawaiian) pedia (for "encyclopedia") for nothing.

As you probably know, Wikipedia is written and edited by mostly anonymous people who do it for nothing. They are constantly working away on this global treasure, editing and updating the articles 24/7.

So far, there have been more than 600 million edits. Talk about a peer review. And April is contributors' month in Canada, when Wikipedia nerds organize workshops designed to make articles better. Sign me up for the Rufous Hornero session.

Of course, Wikipedia has its detractors. Despite its strict policy of neutrality, some people think they see biases. But those are the people who see biases everywhere (See Wikipedia: Noam Chomsky). Others are concerned that relying on reliable sources breeds orthodoxy.

Imagine what they'd say if Wikipedia switched to unreliable sources.

In one lifetime, we've gone from a world where only a few wealthy nations had access to the world's knowledge, and even that required access to a good reference library. Now, instead of a library, all you need is a smartphone. Instead of a librarian telling you to shush! you can ask Wikipedia. Yell if you like.

This year it's expected that smartphones account for 70 per cent of the mobile-device market in the U.S. (Wikipedia: smartphone). I'm not sure what happens when all that knowledge gets around, as even a little learning is a dangerous thing.

There's another term for Wikipedia. It's called Pandora's Box.

Look it up. You know where.

ZOOM

A canyon of colours

Photography art that's a snap

This image looks as if it was taken in a fantastical canyon on some alien planet. In truth, it's an amazing picture of Arizona's Antelope Canyon taken by amateur photographer Gregory Boratyn.

The 42-year-old software engineer from San Diego has shown the popular geological wonder in a new light thanks to clever use of photo software.

"First, I decided to make them monochrome," said Boratyn.

"The place in the summertime is quite cold, so instead of black and white I decided to go with blue and black to emphasize the coldness of the rock and the place itself. The colours of red, orange and blue are called complementary and they made the image more pleasant to human eyes, which was my intention."

METRO WORLD NEWS

It lens itself to admiration

- Photography software used to enhance the canyon's textures: Nik Silver Efex Pro 2, Viveza 2, Adobe Photoshop CS6.

GREGORY BORATYN/REX FEATURES

Clickbait

ANDREW FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

Ready to make the leap from fledgling sophisticated patron of the arts to bona fide sophisticated patron of the arts? Help yourself along with these entry-level primers on classical music and opera.

Opera Five

The Toronto-based collective's cheeky Opera Cheats series strips away the more intimidating aspects of opera to reveal the murder and adultery that's been entertaining us for centuries. (youtube.com/operafive)

CDZA

Classical musicians woo new fans with cool experiments such as a piece based entirely on classic ringtones or a pop medley that showcases key changes. Occasional cross-dressing and sax-playing dinosaurs keep things lively. (cdzamusic.com)

Twitter

@metropicks asked: Did you know it takes a 22-km walk to burn off a Big Mac meal? What food would you walk 22 km for?

@MR_BF7: That does not include the GREASE!

@JessicaSquibb: tub of coconut oil. Weird?

@bexbz: Literally nothing

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

Comments

RE: Freezing Weather Wipes Out German Flea Circus, published March 31

A day early, folks a day early.
Myworkisdonehere posted to metronews.ca

RE: Americans Furious Over Google's Easter 'Doodle', published March 31

Google is a business. They owe zero allegiance to ANY religion on ANY day of the year. (American here.)
Koreginald posted to metronews.ca

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU: Send us your comments: saskatoonletters@metronews.ca

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Ceremony

Elton John and partner to be celebrated

Elton John and his long-time songwriting partner, Bernie Taupin, will be honoured at this year's Songwriters Hall of Fame induction ceremony.

John and Taupin, who teamed on most of the singer's best-known hits, will receive the Johnny Mercer Award during the June 13 ceremony in New York.

Elton John
GETTY IMAGES

Video

Leno and Fallon poke fun at Late Night rumours

Jay Leno and Jimmy Fallon poked fun at the late-night rumours swirling around them in a music video that aired between their back-to-back NBC shows Monday night.

In a spoof of the romantic ballad Tonight from West Side Story, Leno, who was backstage at the Tonight show on the West Coast, and Fallon, in his Late Night office in Manhattan, serenaded each other by cellphone.

Internet concert

Buscemi taking lead role for online concert

Steve Buscemi will direct a live stream of a Vampire Weekend concert to debut a new season of Unstaged.

The stream will launch the fourth season of American Express Unstaged, an online series that pairs notable directors with popular music acts.

Vampire Weekend's concert at the Roseland Ballroom on April 28 will stream live on VEVO and YouTube.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jane Levy stars in the latest instalment of Evil Dead, which opens this weekend. HANDOUT

What could go wrong at a remote cabin? Lots

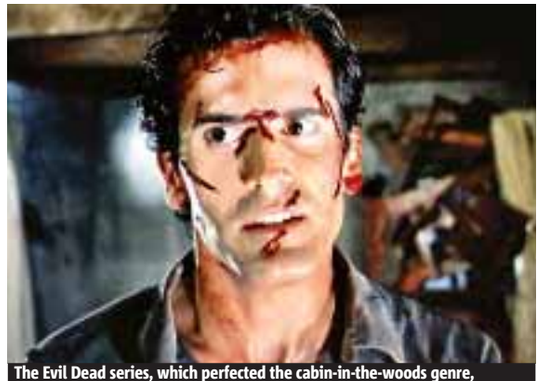
Horror films. Evil Dead returns this weekend, bringing a fresh take on the genre that has seen lots of clueless, pretty people killed over the years

RICHARD CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

Are there any more frightening words in a horror movie synopsis than "five friends head to a remote cabin?"

That phrase has been the starting point for many scary scripts, conjuring up visions of ancient evil life forms, dangerous hillbilly types, mysterious incantations and lines like, "No matter what, we have to stay together."

The cabin-in-the-woods genre is decades old, but almost always follows the same formula: five good-looking teens, say, a jock, a stoner, some hot girls, one a brainiac, and a party girl go to a cabin, and only one or two make it home.



The Evil Dead series, which perfected the cabin-in-the-woods genre, developed a huge following. HANDOUT

This weekend's Evil Dead shakes up the formula to an extent.

In it some handsome people head to an isolated cottage not to drink and party but to help Mia (Jane Levy) kick her addiction to drugs.

The details are different, but the outcome — and this isn't a spoiler, just a statement of fact — is the same and that's what we like about the genre.

The most well loved cabin in the woods movies must be the first two Sam Raimi Evil Dead films.

The original, and namesake of the series, was actually shot in a real life abandoned cottage.

In it five friends go to a cabin in the woods (sound familiar?), discover a Book of the Dead and unleash flesh-possessing demons.

It made a star of Bruce Campbell and led to a sequel, Evil Dead II, another cabin movie that is equal parts silly and scary.

Eli Roth made his directorial debut with Cabin Fever, a movie inspired by real life events.

The idea for a film about a group of friends in a (you guessed it!) cabin in the woods, tormented by a flesh-eating virus and homicidal townsfolk, came to him as he worked on a horse farm.

"I was cleaning hay out of this barn and got this infection on my face," he says.

The rash got so bad that, "I went to shave and I literally shaved a third of my face off."

It hurt, but he looked at the bright side.

"I thought, 'This is actually going make a great movie one day.'"

Sleepaway Camp — ignore the sequels, although the number two's title Unhappy Campers is pretty great — sets the action at a summer camp. This gory slasher flick is most notable for a wild twist ending that has been called a "jaw-dropping, tape-rewinding, pause-and-stare-and-call-your-friends-over-to-stare" moment.

Lindsay Lohan. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Lohan gets in on the April Fools' Day pranks

Lindsay Lohan made a very last-minute decision to continue her adventures in Brazil this week, making her way to the São Paulo airport for a flight back to New York only to opt out of getting on the plane, according to E! News.

While her manager took the flight as planned, Lohan reportedly checked herself into the Emiliano Hotel alone with a female friend.

"She's staying on her own dime," a source says. "She is staying against everyone's advice."

Lohan's promotional trip to Brazil for a denim company was to be followed by a quick trip to NYC before heading to L.A. for the Coachella Music Festival and then 90 days of court-ordered rehab.

The extended vacation also gave Lohan a chance to get in on the fun of pulling an April Fools' prank on her Twitter followers, posting, "It's official. Pregnant..." and drawing a flood of shocked reactions.

Olivier Martinez

Olivier Martinez gets into fight with photogs

Halle Berry and fiancé Olivier Martinez had a pretty rough homecoming after their Hawaiian vacation when Martinez got into a bit of a scuffle with paparazzi outside LAX, according to TMZ.

Martinez allegedly kicked a photographer in the leg and wrist as he, Berry and Berry's daughter, Nahla, attempted to exit the airport, with Berry reportedly imploring the swarm of shutterbugs, "Get away, there's a child."

Once Nahla was safely in their waiting SUV, Martinez reportedly stormed back to kick the photographer again before being pulled away by Berry.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

What's lower than scamming kids with cancer?

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Oh man. This is not good. I mean, in the spectrum of "not good things," this ranks pretty much at the top: Lamar Odom and wife Khloe Kardashian's charity for kids with cancer looks like a scam.

That's right, they are fleecing kids with cancer.

The only thing worse than scamming kids with cancer? Scamming kids with AIDS. That's it. There's nothing worse. (OK, maybe scamming orphans with AIDS and/or cancer, but that's really it.)

A new report by ESPN (and this marks the first time ESPN has been mentioned in this column) says that Odom's charity, Cathy's Kids, which started in 2004 in honour of Odom's mother who died from stomach cancer, has raised $2.2 million, but not one cent has gone to cancer-related causes.

Instead, it seems like the money has gone to two things: the charity's executive, Jerry DeGregorio, who happened to be the best man in Kardashian's and Odom's wedding, and two elite youth basketball travel teams. It's important to note that none of the kids in the "elite basketball team" seem to be battling cancer in between games.

When approached by ESPN, Odom brushed off the allegations with, "It's my money."

Actually, if you raise $2.2 million by having people donate their cash to help children with cancer, it's not your money. I swear. Do I have to go to Hollywood myself to teach these people how to act?

Justin Bieber

Justin Bieber's pals living it up at his place

It turns out Justin Bieber doesn't even have to be home to show his friends a good time. According to E! News, about four male pals have been crashing at Bieber's L.A. area home and throwing some pretty raucous parties in his absence, and the neighbours are taking notice.

"They probably complain because when people come up, there are like 20 cars. That was a crazy party," a source says.

The house guests living it up while Bieber continues his tour include rappers Lil Twist and King Kevi.

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Tourists enjoy the rays on the Maho beach near Princess Juliana International Airport. ISTOCK

St. Maarten — the place to sip, shop and sun yourself

Island time. Pristine beaches, frosty rum drinks and plenty of shopping make this the place of cubicle dreams

ALISON BOWEN
life@metronews.ca

Philipsburg is a must-visit site for shopaholics. ISTOCK

St. Maarten, a 60-square-kilometre island, boasts beach after beach, most framed by mountains. And these many waterfronts are put to good use with bars plopped on the water and multiple marinas. St. Maarten fulfils cubicle fantasies: crisp white sailboats against azure waters, fresh and flavourful seafood and imaginative rum drinks. But the island, which is half Dutch and half French, also has a bonanza of different cultures, shown by more than 360 restaurants in surprising variety. So whether you're stopping over before sailing on to nearby St. Barths or St. Kitts or staying for a while, here's where to shop, sip and sun.

For filling your suitcase

Philipsburg, the capital on the Dutch side, is a must-visit for the island's legendary duty-free shopping. Stroll along the winding narrow roads and pop into the numerous jewelry and watch stores. Also a must-see? The Guavaberry Emporium, built in an old cedar house, where you can sample not only the berry liqueur but also a guava colada. The fruit has a mild, unusual sweetness. This shop is also a great place to pick up gifts, like rum bottles with colourful hand-painted sunsets and parrots.

For Caribbean blue skies and seas

Sailing aficionados should schedule their visit during the annual Heineken Regatta, where sailboats race around the island, creating picture-perfect views of colourful, billowing sails dotting royal-blue water. The event promises "serious fun" with parties every night, visitors and locals dancing the night away in flip flops on the sand. Even if you can't sail, make sure to get out on the water — the ocean is so clear, if you jump in, you can see your toes. Even that doesn't impress locals — clear to them means seeing the bottom.

Where to stay

The Sonesta Maho Beach Resort and Casino, undergoing a $3 million renovation, is ideal for travellers who want a sea breeze and tropical drink 10 minutes after landing. The hotel is within walking distance to multiple restaurants, although it is all-inclusive, covering all your meals and rum punches.

Celebrity X Cruises

Norwegian Fjords Cruise

Departing from Southampton, England this amazing 8 night adventure takes you along to see one of Norway's gorgeous fjords. Your ports of call include Molde, Alesund, Flam, Bergen, and Stavanger.

Balcony cabin from $1429*

*Fares are cruise only, per person, CAD, based on double occupancy, and is subject to availability. Fare is based on Celebrity Cruises' Eclipse May 3rd sailing category X – Balcony. Inside and oceanview cabins are available, please inquire. Flights are additional. Government & service fees of approximately $152 per person are additional.

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Before you roll your eyes and think about the struggles of trying to redeem your travel points, know that not all rewards programs are fraught with frustration.

Thousands of Canadians are enjoying the ease, success and affordability of collecting travel rewards through the use of credit cards such as Avion, a leading premium travel rewards credit card in Canada. You can use your RBC Rewards points to book your next trip without the disappointment of a seemingly endless list of blackout dates or finding no available seats, regardless of where and when you plan to travel.

Avion travel reward bookings are powered by Travelocity, which "truly puts clients in the pilot's seat with access to Travelocity's sales and special programs for flights, hotels, car rentals and vacation packages," says Andrea Metrick, director of retail cards for RBC. "It's a one-stop shop for research, planning and booking travel, including trip protection and travel insurance.

"The real key to Avion is the choice that's available through the RBC Rewards program," Metrick says. "Our value is in the breadth and depth of the program, allowing our members the choice of rewards that suit a wide range of tastes and lifestyles."

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Rich flavours from roasted acorn squash team up with maple syrup

Ingredients

- 2 acorn squash, halved and seeded
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) maple syrup
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 large carrot, peeled and chopped
- 1 small Granny Smith apple, peeled and chopped
- 1 l (4 cups) chicken broth, plus 250 ml (1 cup) for thinning
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) ground thyme
- Pinch of nutmeg
- Salt and freshly ground pepper
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) fresh lemon juice
- Diced apple and fresh chives for garnish

1. Preheat oven to 200 C (400 F).

2. Brush cut side of squash with maple syrup and place cut side down on a baking sheet lightly coated with 15 ml (1 tbsp) of the olive oil. Bake 45 minutes or until tender. Allow to cool, then scrape out the squash flesh and set aside.

3. In a 4-litre (4-quart) saucepan, heat remaining 30 ml (2 tbsp) olive oil over medium heat. Add garlic, onion, carrot and apple. Cook for 5 minutes, then reduce heat to low and cover. Simmer, stirring occasionally, for 30 minutes or until vegetables are soft.

4. Add the cooked squash, 1 litre (4 cups) broth, thyme, and nutmeg. Simmer for 20 minutes. Allow to cool.

5. Once the mixture has cooled, blend (in two batches) in food processor or blender until smooth. Reheat soup and season to taste with salt and freshly ground pepper. Stir in fresh lemon juice and add more broth if soup is too thick. Garnish with apple and chives.

Roasted Acorn Squash Soup

This recipe serves four. THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ FEDERATION OF QUEBEC MAPLE SYRUP PRODUCERS

Drink of the Week

Smithsonian

Indulge your senses with this contemporary blend of smooth flavours of almond syrup, lemon juice, lavender bitters and more.

- 1.5 oz Belvedere Vodka
- 3/4 oz almond syrup (Orgeat)
- 1/2 oz fresh lemon juice
- 3 dashes lavender bitters
- 1/4 oz egg white
- Soda top

Dry shake ingredients then shake with ice and fine strain into a highball glass. Top with soda. Garnish with a lavender stalk.

RECIPE AND IMAGE COURTESY OF BELVEDERE VODKA

Not all interviews created equal

So what's your type?

Whether it's in-person, in a group or on the phone, you'll know how to impress with these insider tips

SHAHEERAH KAYANI
TalentEgg.ca

So you've done the hard work of sending in your application for that dream internship, perfecting your resumé, creating that awesome cover letter, sending in your transcript. And you've been chosen for an interview. Yay!

Now comes the time to prepare and brush up on your interview skills.

One of the things you need to consider is what type of interview is it? Read below for the three main types of interviews to see what employers are looking for in each type and what you can do to ace the interview.

One-on-one interview

This is the most common type.

What the employer is seeking

It involves you and the interviewer having a one-on-one chat about why you've applied for the position, discussing your qualifications and past experiences and assessing your skills to see if you are a good fit for the employer.

What you should do

- Always bring a copy of your resumé with you to the interview and know what is on your resumé inside and out.
- When the interviewer asks you questions, you will need to refer to specific examples from your resumé and highlight what skills and strengths you developed from those experiences, as well as both the positive and negative aspects of your previous employment and how you dealt with them.
- You will also use your past experiences to talk about a weakness you may have, but make sure to emphasize how you are working to improve on those weaknesses.

Group Interview

Standing out in a group interview setting is a matter of knowing what to say and when to speak up. ISTOCK

This involves you and a few other job seekers who have applied for the same position or department as you. The employer will interview all of you simultaneously to see if you would work well in a team environment with your co-workers.

What the employer is seeking

- In this type of interview, the employer wants to assess your ability to work as part of a team by seeing you in action.
- The employer will judge you based on how you well you interact with the other applicants and your contributions to the interview discussion.

What you should do:

- Greet the other applicants and introduce yourself.
- Don't interrupt other applicants when they're talking but feel free to contribute to others' answers.
- Know what your own personal strength is when working in a team, and showcase that role well.

Telephone Interview

Based on your availability and time or location constraints, the employer may decide to interview you on the phone.

What the employer is seeking

- The employer will want to hear a clear, vibrant voice.
- He/she will be testing your ability to think on the spot and articulate your answers.

What you should do

- Firstly, schedule a phone call for a time when you know you for sure that you will be available.
- Again, have your resumé in front of you so that you can be ready to answer questions.
- Don't rush your answers, but instead take the time to form clear responses.
- Keep a calendar/agenda handy, so that you can take down important notes.

Study up!

Regardless of what type of interview it is, the key to acing it is practise, practise, practise!

- Consider checking in with your school's career service department to see if they offer mock interview, resumé critiques, and other interview help.

TALENTEGG.CA IS CANADA'S LEADING JOB SITE AND ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADUATES.

NHL

Slumping Stars clearly rebuilding

The Dallas Stars on Tuesday traded 41-year Jaromir Jagr to Boston and sent surging centre Derek Roy to Vancouver.

The moves came a day after a 4-0 loss to Anaheim. Dallas got two young prospects and a conditional second-round pick from Boston, and a 23-year-old defenceman and a second-round pick from Vancouver.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

Sabres sever Penguins streak

The Pittsburgh Penguins' run at a record-breaking streak is over. Playing without injured star Sidney Crosby, the Penguins fell to the Buffalo Sabres 4-1 to end their 15-game winning streak on Tuesday night.

Pittsburgh was attempting to draw within one of the NHL record of 17 consecutive wins set by the 1992-93 Penguins, but looked out of sync and lost for the first time since falling to Carolina 4-1 on Feb. 28.

Kevin Porter scored his first two goals of the season for the Sabres, who won for the first time in five games.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

Rangers reel in Clowe from the Sharks

The New York Rangers have acquired forward Ryane Clowe from the San Jose Sharks for three draft picks.

The teams announced the deal on Tuesday night. The Sharks get the Rangers' second-round pick and a third-round pick in the 2013 draft, and a conditional second-round pick in the 2014 draft.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ryane Clowe GETTY IMAGES

Captain Blue Jays — a.k.a. Warren Baxter of Oakville, Ont. — gets ready for the season opener on Tuesday night at Rogers Centre. DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Jose Reyes enjoys a smile with his Jays teammates during Tuesday's introductions. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cleveland shortstop Asdrubal Cabrera rounds the bases after hitting a fifth-inning homer off Jays starter R.A. Dickey. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Blue Jays right-fielder Jose Bautista eyes home-plate umpire Jeff Nelson after a called strikeout on Tuesday. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Blue Jays off-kilter to open new era

MLB. Revamped Toronto club gets off to slow start as Cleveland spoils opening-day festivities

On Tuesday

Indians	Blue Jays
4	1

The Rogers Centre was sold out, there was a rock star in the house and R.A. Dickey's knuckleball was dancing.

All the ingredients seemed to be present under the dome for an opening-day launch befitting the retooled Blue Jays.

But Cleveland pitcher Justin Masterson kept the Jays bats in check and shortstop Asdrubal Cabrera made key plays on defence and offence as the Indians spoiled Dickey's Toronto debut with a 4-1 win before an opening-day crowd of 48,857 on Tuesday night.

"I know they're all disappointed," Toronto manager John Gibbons said of the fans. "We're not. That's part of baseball. We just got outplayed tonight. But they'll be back. We've got a good ball club. They'll be back. They'll have a fun, entertaining year this year, I believe."

Still the loss may be a splash of cold water on the face of Toronto fans already planning a championship parade given the extensive, expensive roster remake over the winter. Cleveland planted a few seeds of reality under the dome but there is still plenty of time for the Jays to harvest wins.

Cabrera hit a two-run homer for the Indians, who took advantage of some early passed balls as Dickey's fledgling partnership with catcher J.P. Arencibia showed some teething problems.

Dickey (0-1) went six innings in his first opening-day start, giving up four runs (three earned) on five hits with four strikeouts, four walks and a wild pitch. He threw 104 pitches, including 60 strikes.

"I think everybody that came tonight understands that we've got a pretty good ball club and the season is not won or lost on opening night," Dickey said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB. Carter says 2013 Blue Jays just have to 'relax'

Jays great Joe Carter jokes with team president Paul Beeston on Tuesday before Toronto's season opener against Cleveland. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Former Toronto Blue Jays outfielder Joe Carter knows a thing or two about high expectations.

Big things were expected the year after Toronto's first World Series title in 1992. The Blue Jays rose to the occasion again in 1993, with Carter anchoring the team and sealing the series victory with a walk-off homer in Game 6.

The buzz is back in the Ontario capital this year after a busy off-season marked by some stunning trades and spending.

Carter's advice for the 2013 edition of the team? Don't get caught up in the hype.

"When you have new guys come in — as many as the Jays have coming in now — the tendency is to go out there and try to do too much, too early," Carter told The Canadian Press.

"And then when you do that, you put yourself in a hole. What they've got to do is just go out there and try to relax as much as possible and trust their teammates and believe in their teammates and not try to do it themselves."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

4 SPORTS

DRIVE

Not the same old song and dance

Auto Pilot. The Internet is changing the way we purchase vehicles —and dealers are finally catching on

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
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Back in pioneer times, before coffee went grande latte, TV went reality and information went digital, the car buying process at a dealership had a distinctly operatic feel.

It took way too long — in some cases, four hours plus. The drama seemed forced. Too many characters kept showing up — particularly that general sales manager guy who didn't talk much but had to have a hand in everything.

Fast forward to these modern times and now customers have access to the Internet.

According to the 2011 Google Automotive Shopping Behaviour Study, customers spend up to eight hours researching their purchase.

So now, when we show up at the dealership, we're much further along in the process. Often times we've already decided on the make and model and trim line. We're just there to get the vehicle at a fair price, and get the heck out of there.

But no … The salesperson insists you take your place on stage, for the full four-hour performance.

Take heart, however, that many enlightened automakers and dealers are very aware of this disconnect and have reshaped, or are in the process of reshaping, the sales process to better serve the Internet-savvy customer.

Toyota Canada has rolled out a special version of its already customer-friendly sales process, designed specifically for customers who don't want or need guidance about vehicle selection.

And Lincoln Concierge, which launches in Canada later this year, will see real live Lincoln people interacting with customers as they go through their online research. When the customer is ready for the dealership step, the Lincoln Concierge will facilitate the transition.

"The customer obviously has to agree to the passing of the information," says Peter Jansen, Lincoln Canada's national sales manager. But if they do, he adds, the customer will be rewarded with a "better first introduction" to the dealership world. For example, dealership staff will already know the customer's name, profile and vehicle choice, and know they are a customer seeking an "expedient" transaction experience.

The management team at Trotman Automotive Group, Mitch Trotman, left, Mike Trotman and Brad Trotman. CONTRIBUTED

One of the more pro-active dealers in Canada is the Trotman Automotive Group (TAG) in B.C. The main elements of the Trotman's express lane are that customers get pre-approved for financing, and get monthly payment ranges and pricing information at the start of the process. To save time, the used car manager will offer to appraise the customer's trade while they are test-driving the new vehicle.

"This is all information customers need to make a good decision, so let's acknowledge that and provide it to them proactively," says TAG president Mike Trotman.

The sales manager is still involved, but introduces himself or herself early, and tries to be a force for quickness, rather than a force for stretching it out. Trotman figures the process shaves half to two-thirds off the time of a conventional one.

Customers love it. "They tell us they never bought a vehicle so quick, so easy, and with so much fun before." In other words, no more waiting around until the Fat Lady sings.

Subaru's 'boxer' engine is all about balance

Driving Force. A boxer engine provides predictability and makes it easy to service a vehicle

JIL MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

To most people, a boxer is someone who makes his living in the ring. But there's another definition in the automotive world — it's a type of engine, and the only kind you'll find in a Subaru vehicle.

"It's also called a horizontally opposed or flat engine," says Ted Lalka, vice-president of product planning and marketing for Subaru Canada.

"They tend to be compact and lightweight, and they produce a fair amount of power to weight. They're still used in aviation for those reasons, and our company has a background in the aircraft industry, so we developed an expertise in these types of engines."

Subaru's boxer engine. CONTRIBUTED

The heart of an engine is a large, heavy shaft called the crankshaft. It's attached to pistons, which slide inside cylinders when they're powered by the exploding force of gasoline that's been detonated by the spark plugs. The pistons turn the crankshaft, and its spinning motion is what ultimately turns the car's wheels.

On most engines, the pistons are above the crankshaft, either in a straight line (called an inline engine, the most common configuration for four-cylinder engines), or slanted in two banks, forming a V that gives V6 and V8 engines their names. But on a boxer engine, the four or six pistons lie flat on either side of the crankshaft, where they move horizontally in their cylinders to provide power.

A boxer engine isn't as tall as a regular engine, which helps to lower the vehicle's centre of gravity. This improves handling and stability.

"With the boxer engine, it has very good balance between the left and right side, so the vehicle handles in a very predictable manner," Lalka says. "In addition, it makes servicing the vehicle easy. A lot of the components can be placed on top of the engine, so the alternator, water pump, and even the oil filter are right on top where they're easier to reach."

A different type of engine

- The boxer engine is part of Subaru's "symmetrical" all-wheel drive configuration, in which all driveline components are aligned on the car's north-south axis for better balance.
- It's believed that horizontally opposed engines got the name "boxer" because the piston movement looks like boxers jabbing at each other.

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Do whatever it takes to make an impression on people in positions of power. With your drive and determination you can and you must find ways to get yourself noticed.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Forget about the negative things in your life — the bills, the quarrels, etc. — and focus on your dreams. The planets indicate that at least one of those dreams will come true over the next few weeks.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
If you need to improve your financial situation then it's time to make that big move from the planning stage to the doing stage. You know what changes need to be made, so get on with it and make them.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Changes seem to be coming quickly at the moment and it may all be getting a bit too much for you. Calm down, make yourself a nice cup of tea and let the planets work their magic. You'll be OK.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
It seems you have your fingers in too many pies at the moment and there is a serious possibility they could get burned. Maybe it's time to back off a bit, at least for a while. Sort out your priorities.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Your creative juices are bubbling and although some say your ideas are far-fetched, you know they can work. You have so much confidence in your abilities there is nothing you cannot do.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You will be on good terms with just about everyone today but especially with a group of people who like to go to extremes. That's all fine and dandy but watch out you don't hurt yourself, or other people.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Nothing seems to faze you at the moment. Is that because your circumstances have changed for the better or is it because you finally understand that life is supposed to be fun? Whatever the reason, enjoy!

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Minor problems will likely be magnified into major setbacks today, at least in your head. It is essential that you don't let your fears get out of hand. What happened to that happy-go-lucky, optimistic Sag?

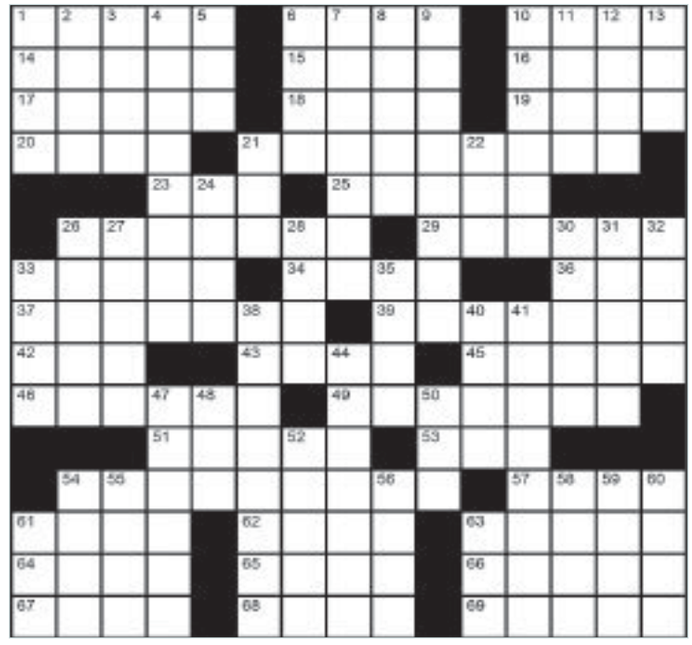
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Pluto in your birth sign gives you great power but it also brings with it responsibility for how you use that power. You may be tempted to use your authority to cut corners today but that would be a mistake.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Others may be urging you to do this or do that but don't listen to them. There is no need to panic or change your lifestyle. Changes will take place but let them happen gradually, not all in one go.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
What is happening in your life may be unsettling but it is also necessary if you are to lead a fuller existence. Whatever is going on won't be happening next week. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

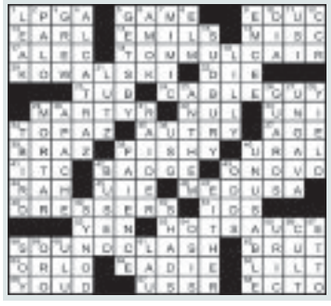
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Winnie-the-Pooh greeting
6. Long-range weapon, commonly
10. Taj†Mahal's site
14. Shake like _ __
15. Actor, Benicio Del __
16. Alaska's famous Glacier
17. Alberta tourist hotspot
18. Canadian news anchor who is 3x Olympian, Rosey __
19. Curves
20. Ice floes animal
21. Winnipeg-born singer/songwriter Chantal
23. Singer Ms. DiFranco
25. Right-hand page
26. Lady Gaga's "Bad __"
29. Virgil epic
33. Tailor's lines
34. Subtraction opp.
36. Francis __, "Love Story" score composer
37. "Piece of cake!": 2 wds.
39. Character in Great Expectations
42. Superagent on "Entourage"
43. "Hey! Hold on _ __!"
45. Makes _ _ (Is untidy)
46. City of Russia
49. Trinidad music style
51. Alan __ (Canadian hubby of Suzanne Somers)
53. Racecar driver Mr. Fabi
54. Fundraising entities
57. Queen's 'Bohemian', e.g.
61. Enthusiasm
62. Swimmer's circuits
63. Shrek's beloved Princess
64. The Phantom's name in Gaston Leroux's classic novel The Phantom of the Opera
65. Itemize
66. Songs
67. Canadian comedian/actor, Jon __
68. Musher's 'vehicle'
69. Some ducks

Down
1. Montreal hockey players, to fans
2. Wings: Latin
3. Ms. Horne
4. Chief Anchor of "CTV National News", Lisa __
5. Switch selection
6. Old road of Rome
7. Emergency situation: 2 wds.
8. Alla __ (Music term)
9. Daniel Day-Lewis film, "The Last of the __"
10. Books-selling website
11. Wise adviser
12. Humphrey's part in "Casablanca" (1942)
13. MGM's motto, __ Gratia Artis (Art for Art's Sake)
21. Family
22. Used up
24. Astronaut employer
26. '70s fashion, for instance
27. "Wonderwall" band
28. Islets
30. Ils opposites
31. "_ __ feel that way." (Concurring comment)
32. "Buenos __!"
33. Thailand, formerly
35. Prefix meaning 'Ten'
38. Log-processing sites
40. Mr. Diggs
41. Shopper's dream site
44. "The Twilight Saga: __" (2010)
47. Ottawa-born actress Sarah
48. Rowboat steerer
50. Mil. officers
52. Internet commerce, _-__
54. Kind of mackerel
55. Brushed stuff
56. Approximated, for short
58. Sharpen skills
59. Afresh
60. Backstage __
61. Last letter
63. Alberta's McMurray, et al.

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku

1	6	2	3	8	5	7	9	4
8	5	9	7	1	4	6	3	2
3	7	4	2	9	6	5	1	8
9	3	5	1	2	7	8	4	6
7	4	8	5	6	9	3	2	1
6	2	1	8	4	3	9	5	7
4	8	6	9	3	1	2	7	5
5	1	3	6	7	2	4	8	9
2	9	7	4	5	8	1	6	3

Today
0°/-12°
Mainly sunny

Thursday
-2°/-6°
Partly sunny

Know what the weather will be 14 days from now.
Check the 14 day trend.
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